

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-12, and 15-22 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 8 being the independent claims. Claims 13 and 14 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-12, and 15-22 are sought to be amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Allowable Subject Matter/Claim Objections***

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 1, 2, and 4-6 recite allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, and 4-6 to clarify the subject matter therein. In light of the above amendments, Applicants nevertheless believe that claims 1, 2, and 4-6 remain patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons cited by the Examiner on page 3 of the present Office Action. Applicants reserve the right to demonstrate that claims 1, 2, and 4-6 are allowable over the art made of record for further reasons related to any of their recited features.

Applicants further note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 9-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Based on the Remarks below, Applicants respectfully submit that

claims 9-19 are patentable over the art of record without being rewritten in independent form including all limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, in view of the Remarks below, it is respectfully requested that the objection to claims 9-19 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102***

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Pre-Grant Publication No. 2003/0005212 to Cocca (“Cocca”). For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully traverse.

Without acquiescing to the propriety of the rejection, independent claim 8 has been amended herein. Cocca does not teach or suggest each and every feature of amended independent claim 8. Cocca describes a specific method for programming electrically erasable programmable memory. (Cocca, FIG. 3, ¶¶ [0043]-[0045].) Cocca does not teach or suggest “a comparator configured to compare the data content of the interrupt register with data content of the program counter to determine if the data content of the interrupt register matches the data content of the program counter” and “a multiplexer configured to replace the at least one actual instruction with an interrupt pseudo-instruction if an external interrupt request is received by the processor or if the data content of the program counter matches the data content of the interrupt register” as recited in amended independent claim 8.

For the foregoing reasons, amended independent claim 8 is patentable over Cocca. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103***

Claims 8 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,664,199 to Kuwahara (“Kuwahara”) in view of Cocca. For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully traverse.

Without acquiescing to the propriety of the rejection, independent claim 8 has been amended herein. As noted above, Cocca does not teach or suggest at least “a comparator configured to compare the data content of the interrupt register with data content of the program counter to determine if the data content of the interrupt register matches the data content of the program counter” and “a multiplexer configured to replace the at least one actual instruction with an interrupt pseudo-instruction if an external interrupt request is received by the processor or if the data content of the program counter matches the data content of the interrupt register” as recited in amended independent claim 8. Kuwahara does not cure the deficiencies of Cocca.

For the foregoing reasons, amended independent claim 8 is patentable over the combination of Kuwahara and Cocca. Claims 20-22 are further patentable over the combination of Kuwahara and Cocca for the same reason as claim 8, from which they depend, and further in view of their own respective features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 8 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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